

Capitol Update

New Jersey Principals and Supervisors Association

Summer 2000

School Facilities Measure Clears Final Hurdle

More than two years after the New Jersey Supreme Court ordered that New Jersey provide 100 percent state funding for all school facilities projects in the Abbott districts, school facilities legislation providing billions of dollars in state support cleared its final legislative hurdle on July 13 when the Assembly voted to concur with the Governor's Conditional Veto of **S200 (Gormley, Lynch)/A2041 (Collins, Malone)**.

The final legislation provides \$8.6 billion in state aid for school construction, including \$6 billion for the Abbott districts, \$2.5 billion for non-Abbott districts and \$100 million for county vocational schools. Including local funding, the program is expected to generate approximately \$12 billion in school construction and renovation.

The final legislation includes numerous positive provisions that were supported in testimony before the Senate and Assembly by NJPSA and other education groups as part of the School Facilities Coalition. Listed below is a summary of major provisions in the final bill and a comparison to the original Administration proposal in February 1998.

Retroactivity

The final legislation includes state funding for all district projects for which bonds have been issued or lease purchase agreements have been entered into on or after September 1, 1998. The original Administration proposal came out in February of 1998 and was intended to take effect in September 1998.

Square Footage

The Administration's original legislative proposal would have forced school districts to use "cookie cutter" state developed models when constructing new school facilities. The original sparse models only permitted 113 square feet per elementary school student, 110



square feet per middle school student and 141 square feet per high school student. State aid was based on construction costs no higher than \$125 per square foot, including all soft costs such as land acquisition and professional fees.

The final legislation allows districts to design schools that meet their unique needs rather than requiring all districts to use specific state models. The final model significantly expands the permissible square footage. NJPSA played a strong leadership role in the School Facilities Coalition by explaining the need for increased square footage to meet the educational needs of students and address the core curriculum content standards. NJPSA's efforts were particularly important in explaining the need for additional space to implement the middle school concept. The final bill permits 125 square feet per student at the elementary school level, 134 at the middle school level and 151 at the high school level. The maximum eligible cost per square foot was also increased to \$138 including "soft costs."

Flexibility to Exceed Models

The Administration's original proposal required districts to pay all costs that exceeded the proposed facilities efficiency standards. The final legislation provides districts with the opportunity to demonstrate the need to exceed the proposed models. In determining initial eligible costs, a district may demonstrate to the Commissioner that it needs to renovate existing facilities in order to address the Core Curriculum Content Standards (i.e. building new science

labs). Or a district may show that it needs additional space because its special education population exceeds the percentages in the state models. This is a significant improvement over the inflexible approach taken in the original proposal. When a district's actual cost of construction will exceed the final eligible costs by at least 10%, the district may appeal for additional state aid and receive an adjustment up to 10% more than the originally approved eligible costs.

Funding for All Districts

While much of the school facilities debate focused on the 1998 Supreme Court decision regarding the Abbott districts, NJPSA and the other members of the School Facilities Coalition played an instrumental role in ensuring that the final bill addressed the needs of all New Jersey school districts. The Administration's original proposal guaranteed a minimum of only 10% state aid for eligible costs.

The final legislation provides a minimum of 40% state aid for all districts, including more than 200 districts that are currently not eligible for any debt service aid. All districts benefit, with every district's current debt service aid increasing by at least 15%. For example, a district that had received 40% debt service aid would now receive 46% aid for eligible costs ($40\% \times 1.15 = 46\%$).

100% Funding for Abbott Districts & Other Low-Income Districts

Throughout the legislative debate on school facilities, NJPSA stressed the need to provide 100% state funding for Abbott district facilities. Although the Assembly had considered reducing debt service aid to 90% in the Abbott districts, the final legislation includes 100% debt service aid as required by the New Jersey Supreme Court.

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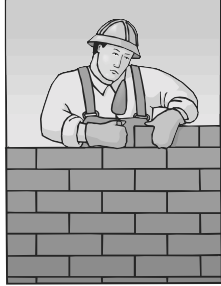
New State Bd. Member

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School Facilities Measure Clears Final Hurdle (continued from p. 1)

The final legislation also eliminates a controversial provision in the Assembly bill that would have allowed the Legislature to rescind state approval for specific projects in the Abbott districts for any reason, after the projects have gone through a rigorous review process and been approved by the Commissioner.



The final legislation also includes a provision permitting other low-income districts, those in District Factor Group A or B, to also apply for 100% funding of their facilities projects. NJPSA supports this provision, which will provide much needed state support for poor districts facing many of the same challenges as the Abbott districts.

The bill creates the "County Vocational School District Rehabilitation Fund." County Vocational schools may apply for a matching grant up to \$500,000 for health and safety rehabilitation projects.

The bill also includes a process for reviewing the status of districts to determine if additional districts should be included in the Abbott definition or current districts should be discontinued from Abbott status.

Finally, districts receiving more than 55% debt service aid are required to use the Economic Development Authority to manage and finance their school construction projects.

Community Development

Six pilot projects will be funded to support collaboration between school districts and municipalities. Final eligible costs may include the cost of community design features used in common by district students and community residents.

Daycare Centers Included in Funding

The Governor's conditional veto required the final legislation to include daycare centers, which are community providers of early childhood education services, as eligible for state funding when such centers contract with Abbott districts or other districts receiving Early Childhood Program Aid. To be eligible for funding, the provider must be included in a district's five year facilities plan. If a provider is in an Abbott district, it will be eligible for 100% state funding for all reasonable, estimated costs. If a provider is in a non-Abbott ECPA district, it will be eligible for debt service aid for reasonable estimated costs at the same percentage as other facilities projects in the district. Any required local share shall be paid directly by the provider, rather than through the local tax levy. The provider is required to repay any state funding under this legislation if the project is no longer being used to serve three and four year old students from an Abbott or ECPA district or if the project is sold, leased or otherwise conveyed to an individual or entity that does not have tax exempt status.

New Unit of Fiscal Integrity Created

The Unit of Fiscal Integrity in School Construction is created in the Office of the Attorney General. The unit will be responsible for examining, investigating and inspecting the activities of the EDA and school districts related to the financing and construction of school facilities. One million dollars is appropriated to establish the unit.

Speaker Calls for Assembly Task Force

On the same day the Assembly gave final approval to the \$12 billion school construction program, **Assembly Speaker Jack Collins** introduced **AR-3**, which establishes the Assembly Task Force on School Facilities Construction Oversight. The Task Force was proposed in response to the many concerns raised throughout the legislative process about the capacity of the Economic Development Authority (EDA) to oversee the financing and construction of billions of dollars of school facilities projects. The Task Force is intended to provide a strong ongoing role for the Assembly in overseeing the EDA and the NJDOE as the facilities program is implemented. An earlier provision in the Assembly version of the school facilities legislation would have permitted the Legislature to disapprove specific facilities projects in the Abbott districts after those projects had received final approval from the Commissioner of Education. That provision was eliminated in the Governor's conditional veto. The proposed Assembly Task Force, by contrast, will review the performance of the EDA and NJDOE in the overall implementation of the facilities program in all school districts.

Speaker Creates Education Policy, Financing & Facilities Commission

Assembly Speaker Collins has also created a special Commission to review broad educational policy, financing and facilities issues. The Commission is **chaired by Speaker Collins** and includes Assemblyman **Alex DeCroce** (R-26) as vice chair, and the following members: Assemblywoman **Charlotte Vandervalk** (R-39), Assemblyman **Kevin O'Toole** (R-21), Assemblyman **Joseph Roberts** (D-5), Assemblywoman **Nia Gill** (D-27) and Assemblyman **Peter Barnes** (D-18). ■

2000 - 2005 NJPSA Goals

The New Jersey Principals and Supervisors Association recognizes that strong leadership is essential to educational excellence in New Jersey. NJPSA is dedicated to assisting school leaders promote effective teaching and student learning. NJPSA asserts itself on the local, county, state and national levels to address school quality and the professional leadership needs of school administrators and supervisors.

- I.** To maintain and enhance the recognition of NJPSA throughout the state as the preeminent organization for elementary, middle, secondary and district level administrators.
- II.** To increase membership and active participation by expanding and improving group and individual services.
- III.** To be proactive in addressing critical and emerging issues relevant to the profession.
- IV.** To provide comprehensive professional development programs.
- V.** To maintain and establish mutually beneficial relationships with business, higher education and financial communities. ■

Approved unanimously by the NJPSA Cabinet, June 27, 2000

DOE Report: NJ Schools Becoming Safer

On July 12, the NJDOE released the *Commissioner's Annual Report to the Legislature on Violence, Vandalism and Substance Abuse in New Jersey Schools* for the 1998-99 school year. The report shows a seven percent reduction in the number of incidents of violence, vandalism, weapons and substance abuse.

Statewide figures on violence, vandalism, weapons and substance abuse for 1998-99 compared with 1997-98 indicate:

- Violence incidents decreased by seven percent, from 14,152 in 1997-98 to 13,320 in 1998-99. The decrease was concentrated in the category of "Fight." However, those incidents where the victim was a staff member increased by 30 percent, many of which were verbal threats and reflect the use of zero tolerance policies and a heightened awareness of the reporting process by staff.
- Vandalism decreased by 12 percent and fell below 7,000 incidents for the first time since 1985. Damage to property and theft accounted for the largest portion of the overall decline in this category.
- Excluding bomb offenses, weapons offenses declined by four percent, from 1,414 to 1,353. The number of bomb offenses, however, more than doubled from 175 to 370, mainly from the slew of copycat offenses following the Columbine tragedy. Including bomb offenses, weapons offenses were up eight percent.
- Possession of firearms declined by 36 percent, from 84 in 1997-98 to 54 in 1998-99.
- Substance abuse incidents decreased by five percent, from 4,214 to 3,992.

In releasing the report, Commissioner Hesper noted that the NJDOE has sought to improve the accuracy of the local district reporting process in recent years by clarifying the reporting categories and providing a training video to assist local district personnel responsible for filing their reports.

Interested members can access the full report from the NJDOE's web site at: www.state.nj.us/njded/schools/vandv/index.html

Governor Touts Administration Efforts

Governor Whitman credited several Administration initiatives for the reduction, including the NJDOE's Safe Schools

Initiative, which included funding for county alternative schools; passage and enforcement of legislation on zero tolerance for guns and weapons; and the development of resource materials for local districts. The Governor also highlighted the Administration's new Character Education Partnership Initiative, which will provide \$4.75 million for every district to implement character education in at least one school during the 2000-01 school year.

NJPSA Pushes for Additional Safeguards

While encouraged by the reduction in incidents, NJPSA is continuing to push for legislation to make our public schools as safe as possible for all children. NJPSA supported legislation designed to improve student safety and discipline includes **S2045 (DiFrancesco)** which will mandate that all handguns sold in New Jersey are "childproof" within three years of the first such gun being sold in the United States; **S622 (Matheussen, Kosco)** which creates "gun free" school zones; **S1015 (Bucco)** which requires that student's disciplinary records be transferred to a receiving district when a student transfers districts; and **A1423 (DeCroce, Murphy)** which requires license suspension until age 21 for a student that causes school disruption requiring the school to schedule a make-up day. ■

NJDOE Releases Technology Survey

According to the the latest NJDOE School Technology Survey 2000, nearly three quarters of all classrooms in New Jersey now have Internet access.

Because of this increased access to the Internet, there has been a rapid rise in the number of schools with their own websites (increase from 56% to 80%). The number of public schools with distance learning capabilities increased from 42% to 68%.

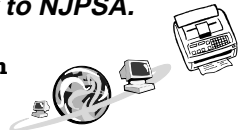
"One of the key educational technology goals I have set for the NJ Department of Education is to achieve a ratio of five students or less for every one multimedia computer by the year 2002," said Governor Whitman. "This new survey documents just how close we are to that goal."

Commissioner of Education David Hesper stressed that schools are making tremendous progress toward ensuring that all students have easy access to new computer technology.

A summary of the survey is available on the department's website at www.state.nj.us/njded/techno/survey. ■

Send your email address and fax number to NJPSA.

NJPSA email:
NJPSA@aol.com
 Fax:
609-860-2999



NJPSA Pushes for Certified Charter School Principals

The State Board of Education will be accepting public testimony on proposed revisions to charter school regulations on Wednesday, August 16. NJPSA plans to testify at the August 16 session of the State Board regarding the need for all charter schools to have an NJDOE certified school principal or school administrator. Currently, charter schools may be run by a "lead person" who is not certified as a principal, school administrator or supervisor. The NJDOE has proposed that all charter schools be required to "employ or contract with a person who holds a New Jersey standard school administrator, principal or supervisor certificate." NJPSA will testify that charter schools should employ a full-time school principal or administrator and should not be permitted to "contract out" administrative functions.

Members interested in testifying may register with the State Board Office by calling (609) 292-0739. Interested members are also encouraged to contact David Nash in NJPSA's Government Relations Department. **The deadline to register to testify is Friday, August 11 at 3 pm.** Written testimony may be sent to:

**State Board of Education
 CN-500
 Trenton, N.J. 08625-0500** ■

Legislative Update

The Legislature was extremely active in the final days before recessing for the summer. In addition to approving a \$21 billion state budget and \$8.6 billion for school facilities, the Legislature also acted on the following bills:

The following bills were signed into law by the Governor:

•S987 (Martin) / A1763 (Wolfe)

Exempts minors participating in science education programs under school and business supervision from certain child labor laws. Requires the Commissioners of Labor and Education to develop regulations to protect student safety.

NJPSA Supports.

•SCR2 (Inverso, DiFrancesco)/ ACR1 (Weingarten, Holzapfel)

Proposes constitutional amendment establishing that State may make available to the general public certain information identifying sex offenders. Places question on November ballot for voters to decide.

•AR 126 (Collins, Doria) - Does Not Require Governor's Signature

Declares the third Friday in September as Legislators Back to School Day.

Related Bill - **SR51 (Codey)**

NJPSA Supports.

The following bills were passed by both the Assembly & Senate and are on the Governor's desk:

•S838 (Martin, Allen) / A581 (Buono, Barnes)

Establishes a minimum period of school district eligibility for early childhood and demonstrably effective program aids and provides budget cap exclusion for demonstrably effective program aid.

NJPSA Supports.

•S1166 (Palaia, Turner)/A2122 (Wolfe, Malone)

Establishes a Commission on Early Childhood Education in, but not of, the NJDOE.

NJPSA Supports.

•S1167 (Palaia, Turner)/A2123 (Wolfe, Malone)

Establishes an Office of Early Childhood Education in the NJDOE.

NJPSA Supports.

The following bills were approved by the Assembly:

•A592 (Buono, Geist)

Prohibits the dissemination of student personal information on the internet without parental consent.

NJPSA is seeking an amendment permitting districts to post information regarding district sporting

events and other school activities on the internet.

•A2157 (Bagger, Augustine)

Provides state aid for any costs exceeding \$40,000 for a special education pupil.

NJPSA supports and is seeking to develop a definition of special education costs that is inclusive of all district expenses, including child study teams and transportation.

•A2351 (Garrett, Talarico)

Requires that school districts receive written informed parental consent prior to administering to students certain surveys or "analyses, evaluations or comprehensive guidance and counseling values clarification programs."

The following bills were approved by the Senate:

•S412 (Lynch, Sinagra)

Prohibits smoking on school grounds.

NJPSA supports the bill after amendments were added protecting the school principal from any penalties for lack of enforcement action as long as reasonable actions are taken to implement the broadened smoking ban.

•S869 (Cardinale, Bucco)

Requires principals and public school teachers to conduct an oral recitation before the opening of each school day; appropriates \$10,000.

NJPSA Opposes.

Related bill - **A2078 (Carroll, Talarico)**

OTHER LEGISLATIVE ACTION

•S1372 (Bennett, Allen)

Revises procedure for self-administration by school pupils of medication for asthma. The bill strengthens protections against liability for school administrators and other school personnel.

STATUS: *Passed Senate Education Committee, awaiting action in Senate Budget & Appropriations Committee.*

NJPSA Supports.

•A2552 (Wolfe, Malone)

Establishes P-3 endorsement and K-8 endorsement to the instructional certificate; requires certified teachers in licensed child care centers; establishes a loan program to assist in the attainment of the P-3 endorsement.

STATUS: *Passed Assembly Education Committee, awaiting action in Assembly Appropriations Committee.*

NJPSA Supports. ■

NJ To Lose \$63.6 Million Under House Bill

Students and schools in New Jersey would be denied funds for education in key areas of reform under a bill approved by the House of Representatives. New Jersey would receive no support under the House bill specifically targeted to low performing schools or to improve the condition of facilities. New Jersey would lose at least \$63.6 million requested by the President to help local schools address the needs of disadvantaged students and use research-based, proven strategies to improve teaching and learning. Overall, the House bill provides \$2.9 billion less nationally than the President's request for education.

The House bill, in comparison to the President's budget proposal, would mean:

- \$39.6 million less to reduce overcrowded class sizes by hiring quality teachers, which would jeopardize an estimated 738 new teachers already hired in New Jersey and deny children the benefits of smaller classes;
- \$16.7 million less to improve teacher quality and recruit teachers into high-poverty school districts; and
- \$2.7 million less to help students in high poverty areas learn the basics and meet the state's academic standards.

The House also rejected \$400 million of the President's increase to fund safe, high-quality, after-school programs for an estimated 7,918 young people in New Jersey at 44 schools. In addition, the House bill falls \$125 million short of the President's budget for GEAR UP, which creates early intervention programs in low income schools and links academic reforms and mentoring to college access. It also fails to fully honor a previous commitment to help ongoing GEAR UP programs expand their services to more students. New Jersey currently has four GEAR UP grants serving an estimated 1,600 students.

Professional Development for Principals

Legislation to provide funding for professional development for school principals has been introduced by Representative Nita Lowey (D-NY).

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In a recent letter to the editor, **NJPSA Executive Director JoAnn D. Bartoletti** called on the New Jersey Assembly to pass the "Gun Safety and Crimes Prosecution Legislative Package," a package of legislation sponsored by **Senate President Donald DiFrancesco** that was recently approved in the Senate. The letter is reproduced below:

Dear Editor:

In New Jersey, our public schools often represent a safe haven for students. According to the Commissioner of Education's Annual Report to the Legislature, our public schools are becoming even safer. This is evident by the 7% reduction in the number of incidents of violence, vandalism, weapons and substance abuse in New Jersey's public schools in 1998-99. The number of incidents of firearms possession was down nearly 40 percent, from 84 to 54 incidents.

While these numbers are encouraging, even one incident of firearms possession could become a tragedy. The images of Columbine and similar tragedies are seared into the hearts and minds of all those who care about children. A child in America is killed with a gun every two hours. That is why the New Jersey Principals and Supervisors Association, representing more than 5,000 school principals, vice-principals and supervisors throughout New Jersey, has been working closely with Senate President Donald DiFrancesco to fight for passage of the "Gun Safety and Crimes Prosecution Legislative Package."

The centerpiece of this legislative package is S2045, a bill that requires all handguns sold in New Jersey to be childproof within 3 years of the first time such a gun is sold in the United States. "Childproofing" a gun will ensure that the gun is personalized and can only be fired by its adult owner, and not by a child or someone who has stolen the gun.

Other bills in the package include S2046, which strengthens prosecution of firearms crimes, S2047 which prohibits the sale of handguns to anyone under 21 and S2048, which requires all handguns sold in New Jersey to be registered by the markings created when the gun is fired.

Thanks to the Senate President's leadership and overwhelming bipartisan support, all of these bills were passed by the Senate on May 18. The time has come for the Assembly to do its part, and pass this common sense legislative package. NJPSA urges the citizens of New Jersey to join with Senate President DiFrancesco in supporting this valuable legislation.

Sincerely,



Executive Director, NJPSA

Members interested in becoming more involved in supporting this legislative package should contact NJPSA's Government Relations Department. Members are also encouraged to contact Assembly Speaker Jack Collins to urge him to support the legislative package.

Hon. Jack Collins, Speaker, New Jersey Assembly
63 East Avenue, Suite C
Woodstown, NJ 08098-1499
(856) 769-3633
(856) 769-0049 Fax ■

NJ Loses Under House Bill (cont. from p. 4)

New Jersey **Representative Donald Payne (D-10)** is one of the cosponsors of the bill, H.R. 4487, known as the "Investment in Quality School Leadership Act." The bill provides \$100 million per year for the next five years to support professional development for school principals.

School Facilities Funding

"The America's Better Classrooms Act" (H.R. 4094) would assist local districts in paying interest on school bonds. Nationally, it would leverage more than \$25 billion in support for school facilities, with New Jersey schools estimated to receive more than \$500 million in support through reduced debt service payments. The following New Jersey Representatives are cosponsors of the bill: **Robert Andrews (D-1), James Saxton (R-3), Chris Smith (R-4), Frank Pallone (D-6), Robert Franks (R-7), William Pascrell (D-8), Steve Rothman (D-9), Donald Payne (D-10), Rush Holt (D-12) and Robert Menendez (D-13).**

NJPSA Members Urged to Contact Representatives

NJPSA members are encouraged to call their representatives on each of these important issues. For additional information, contact NJPSA's Government Relations Department. Members can reach any representative of New Jersey's congressional delegation by accessing the Government Relations section of NJPSA's website at www.njpsa.org. ■

Join NJPSA-PAC

NJPSA has a powerful voice in Trenton as evidenced by the two-year debate over school facilities legislation. Working closely with the other major education associations, NJPSA was able to have a major, positive influence on this historic bill. Your contribution to NJPSA-PAC will help ensure that NJPSA continues to have a strong voice in shaping the future of public education in New Jersey. By supporting NJPSA-PAC, you will be supporting those legislators who have fought for the interests of public education and NJPSA.

Members are urged to support NJPSA-PAC by sending a check to:

NJPSA-PAC
12 Centre Drive
Monroe Twp., N.J. 08831-1564

We ask that you contribute a minimum of \$25.

The NJ State Board of Education

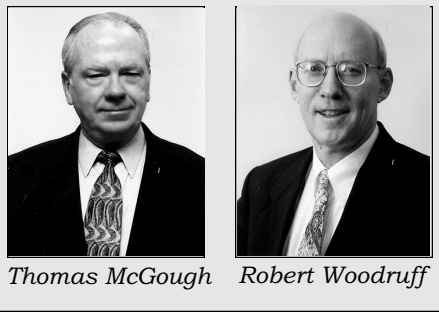
by Thomas McGough and Robert Woodruff, Members, State Board of Education

The State Board of Education develops statewide policy for public education and makes decisions that impact the state's 2500 schools serving 1.25 million students from preschool through twelfth grade. As we begin the new millennium, the State Board of Education realizes that our task is to provide opportunities for all students to receive an education that will prepare them to be competitive in the international marketplace of the future. In order to be successful, we need to have an ongoing dialogue with parents, teachers, administrators and local board members. The purpose of this article is to give an overview of the role of the State Board of Education and some examples of how we meet our statutory responsibilities for public education in our state.

The thirteen State Board members are appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the State Senate. Members serve without compensation for six year terms. By law, three members of the State Board must be women, and no two members may be appointed from the same county. The Commissioner of Education is secretary of the State Board and serves as its official agent for all purposes. Since 1978, the State Board has also included a non-voting student representative, chosen annually by the New Jersey Association of Student Councils.

The New Jersey State Board of Education has four primary roles in public education:

- The State Board has a **regulatory role** and is empowered to make, enforce, modify and repeal regulations needed to carry out state education laws that are passed by the New Jersey State Legislature.
- The State Board is the **polymaking body** of the Department of Education and acts on recommendations from the Commissioner regarding department goals and proposed education standards, policies and initiatives.
- The State Board has an **appellate role** delegated by the judicial branch of the state government and it decides appeals of Commissioner's decisions involving alleged violations of school law and charter school approvals. In effect, the State Board sets educational policy through its legal decisions on matters of controversy in school law such as the powers and duties of the local boards, the



Thomas McGough Robert Woodruff

administration of school districts, school elections and employee relations.

•The State Board also has a role as **liaison to the general public**. It fulfills this role by conducting all of the business of the department and the State Board in public meetings and hearing public testimony on proposed regulations and other issues of general concern.

The process of policy adoption of regulations usually takes a minimum of eight months. For policies which will represent significant change, a policy discussion paper is prepared by staff of the Department of Education and distributed to the various interested constituencies. The policy paper is discussed with the Commissioner and staff at a public meeting of the State Board. After allowing sufficient time for the various constituencies to respond to the policy paper, draft regulations are prepared. The draft regulations are discussed at two successive public meetings of the State Board (public action meetings are held on the first Wednesday of every month). Public testimony is heard following the second discussion. Public testimony is usually heard on the third Wednesday of the month in Trenton, but when interest is very high, regional public meetings are held throughout the state. Typically, two months after the second discussion, the draft regulations are presented at the proposal level and published in the New Jersey Register. A 60-day period follows, during which time another public testimony is held and written comments are accepted from the public during a 30 day period. After the written comments and public testimony are considered by the department, the regulations are presented to the State Board for adoption at a State Board meeting unless input from the public has dictated significant change in the recommendations of the proposed regulation. If there has been significant

change, the proposal will be republished in the NJ Register and another comment period begins during which the public is invited to comment on the proposed changes. This process continues until the regulations are adopted by the State Board.

All regulations expire every five years and the review process begins all over again. This statutory provision is known as the "sunset law" and ensures a constant update of policies. It also provides renewed opportunities for educators and parents to comment on what worked and what needs to be changed.

Public input is very helpful in this process. Often, significant change in educational policy results from comments from the public. The State Board's policy agenda is available on the Department of Education's website at <http://www.state.nj.us/education> in the "Administrative Code" section of the Department Overview. The agenda for public meetings and information about public hearings can also be obtained by writing to the **State Board Office at P.O. Box 500, Trenton, NJ 08625**. The State Board invites all interested parents, teachers and administrators to check our website and participate in the development of regulations through public testimony or sending written comments to the address above.

The knowledge and skills that our students need today are much more extensive than in the past and the onus is on educators and policymakers to keep pace with those changes. The State Board of Education laid the foundation for change in 1996 by adopting the Core Curriculum Content Standards to determine what every student should know and be able to do before graduating from high school. Other major policies adopted recently included regulations pertaining to continuing education for teachers and new federal regulations for special education.

Another responsibility of the State Board, perhaps unique among state bodies, is to decide legal cases received on appeal from the Commissioner of Education's decisions. Educational disputes may be seniority claims, budget appeals, residency disputes, sending/receiving disputes and many others.

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Hyndman Takes Oath as Newest Member of State Board of Education

Dr. Arnold G. Hyndman, dean of Livingston College, Rutgers University, was recently sworn in as the newest member of the New Jersey State Board of Education. Dr. Hyndman, a neurobiologist and lifelong educator, is a resident of Belvidere, Warren County.

Hyndman, who was appointed by Governor Christie Whitman and approved by the State Senate, has an extensive background in teaching and administrative experience in higher education. He joined Rutgers University as an assistant professor of biological science, a position he held from 1981-90. He later was named an associate professor for biological science and in 1994 became professor of biological sciences, a position he holds today.

On the administrative level, Hyndman has served as director of Minority Teaching and Research Career Development at Rutgers from 1983-90 and as associate provost at Rutgers from 1990-94 before he was appointed dean of Livingston College.

In addition to Hyndman's swearing in, the state board also participated in the swearing in of two members for additional terms. **Dr. Ronald K. Butcher**, vice president of the board and a resident of Pitman; and **Dr. Orlando Edreira**, a resident of Elizabeth, were reappointed by Governor Whitman.

Dr. Butcher is an administrator for the College of Education, Rowan University

and is president and CEO of Ronald K. Butcher and Associates, Inc., a consulting corporation.

Dr. Edreira has been professor and director of the Spanish Speaking Program at Kean University since 1968. Dr. Edreira holds several college degrees, doctorate of law degrees from the University of Havana School of Law, Cuba, the University of Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic; and a doctorate degree in Spanish and Portuguese Literature from Columbia University.

Also re-elected was **Maud Dahme** of Annandale to a one-year term as president. Dahme will serve her third consecutive term as president.

Dahme, first appointed to the State Board in 1983, has distinguished herself for many years on public school boards at the local, state and national levels. In 1995-96, she became the first New Jersey resident to serve as president of the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE). Before that, she served on NASBE's board of directors. NASBE is a nonprofit association that represents state and territorial boards of education.

Dahme has served on the New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education since 1982. In 1994, she was chosen from a select group of leading American educators who traveled to Poland to learn firsthand about the Holocaust. ■

State Board of Ed

(cont. from p. 6)

When hearings of these disputes are necessary, the Office of Administrative Law handles them through formal proceedings and makes a recommendation to the Commissioner for a determination.

The Commissioner's decisions may then be appealed to the State Board of Education which reviews the underlying decision in the fashion of an Appeals Court and makes a decision. The State Board's decision becomes the final agency determination. Under the power given to the State Board by the Legislature, it may affirm, modify, or reverse any decision, or remand back to the Commissioner for further hearings if necessary.

Being a member of the State Board requires a great deal of time and effort. The issues are complex, often with no easy solutions. It is particularly challenging to serve on the State Board in this time of systemic change. It is, however, also very rewarding. After all, the decisions made by the State Board of Education impact the lives of New Jersey's children. There are very few things that are more important. ■

Fall Convention to Feature Assessment Panel

The annual FEA/NJPSA Fall Convention, scheduled for November 8, 9 & 10, 2000 at Bally's Park Place, Atlantic City, will feature a panel discussion about the Future of State Assessment. The panel discussion will take place on Thursday, November 9 at 2:20 p.m.

Speakers include **Jay Doolan**, NJDOE Director of Standards and Professional Development; **Daniel Money**, principal of Burlington County Institute of Technology; **Martin Smith**, World Languages supervisor, Princeton; **Rebecca Guess**, principal, Indian Avenue Elementary School, Bridgeton; **Doug Groff**, superintendent, Galloway Township Public Schools; and **Suzanne Jacobus**, World Languages supervisor, Westfield. Dumont High School's **Peter Fedorchak** will moderate the session.

Daniel Money, Rebecca Guess, Martin Smith and Suzanne Jacobus have been selected to serve on a newly formed Statewide Assessment Advisory Panel.

Get the most up-to-date information about assessment at the FEA/NJPSA Fall Convention. ■



FEA/NJPSA Fall Convention
A New Convention for A New Millennium
November 8, 9 & 10, 2000
Bally's Park Place, Atlantic City

Panel on the Future of State Assessment
Thursday, November 9, 2000, 2:20 p.m. - 3:35 p.m.
Speakers: Jay Doolan, Daniel Money, Rebecca Guess
 Doug Groff, Suzanne Jacobus and Martin Smith.
Peter Fedorchak will moderate the session.



September 15 is Legislators Back to School Day

With the goal of promoting greater understanding of the role of the State Legislature in a representative democracy, the New Jersey General Assembly passed Assembly Resolution 126, sponsored by **Assembly Speaker Jack Collins (R-3)** and **Assembly Minority Leader Joseph Doria (D-31)**, declaring the third Friday in September as Legislators Back to School Day. A companion resolution, **SR 51 (Codey)**, is pending in the Senate Education Committee. The resolution mirrors one recently passed by the National Conference of State Legislatures declaring September 15 as America's Legislators Back to School Day.

NJPSA members are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to invite legislators into your schools to speak with students. We also suggest that you arrange some time for administrators from your school and district to meet privately with your legislators.

Listed below is a summary of key bills that are on NJPSA's legislative agenda for the fall and winter of 2000. You may wish to address these issues, along with other concerns particular to your school or district, with legislators who come to visit your school either on September 15 or any time this fall. All members are encouraged to write to their legislators in support of these bills.

Contact David Nash in NJPSA's Government Relations Department if you are interested in arranging a legisla-

tive visit to your school or district or would like additional information on any of the bills listed below.

STUDENT SAFETY/DISCIPLINE

S622 (Matheussen, Kosco)

Creates "gun free" school zones.

S1015 (Bucco)

Requires that student's disciplinary records be transferred to receiving district when student transfers districts.

S1017 (Bucco, Girgenti)

Makes imposition of non-incarcerative penalties (including driver's license suspension) mandatory for persons, including juveniles, who are diverted for drug offenses.

S1372 (Bennett, Allen) / A2590 (DiGaetano, Moran)

Revises procedure for self-administration by school pupils of medication for asthma. The bill strengthens protections against liability for school administrators and other school personnel.

A1423 (DeCroce, Murphy)

Requires driver's license suspension until age 21 for student who causes school disruption requiring make-up day.

SCHOOL FUNDING

S1148 (Bark, Allen) / A2157 (Bagger, Augustine)

Provides state aid for any costs over \$40,000 for a special education pupil.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION **S1402 (Palaia) / A2552 (Wolfe, Malone)**

Requires certain endorsements to the instructional certificate, requires certified teachers in licensed child care centers and establishes a loan program to assist in the attainment of certification.

EDUCATIONAL IMPACT FEES

S842 (Schluter, Turner) / A1712 (Lance, Gusciora)

Permits municipal assessment of development impact fees following state guidelines. ■

Renew Your NJPSA Membership

The key to increasing membership is your personal contact with a non-member, citing the many advantages of NJPSA membership. Call a person in your district and urge them to join NJPSA; invite potential new members to a meeting when NJPSA staff members will be there; follow up with a personal contact if the person does not join within a few weeks. Show your support by renewing your own membership. ■

Call (609) 860-1200 for more information.

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